PARNASSUS - Purposes

PARNASSUS INSTITUTE

Parnassus Institute builds models which exemplify new processes of social change and new social forms. In this time of revolution, old structures and processes no longer provide adequate means for solving problems.

Parnassus Institute was organized in March and incorporated in May of 1968. It is a California non-profit educational corporation. Parnassus' work consists of: organizing training programs; demonstration projects and events; consulting on educational reform and socio-political change.

Projects include:

1) consulting on program development, the training of the staff, planning and running a ten day orientation program, and leading workshops in concept, skill, and sensitivity development with the West Coast Prince of Peace Volunteers' Operation Summer Live-in, 1968.

2) organizing the Festival of Radical Theater in September, 1968, which brought together the S. F. Mime Troupe, El Teatro Campesino, and the Bread and Puppet Theater for a five day festival of workshops and performances at San Francisco State College and in the Parks of San Francisco. The Institute also handled the arrangements for the Bread and Puppet Theater's West Coast Tour.

3) leading an in-service training project with the faculty of California Concordia College, a parochial junior college in Oakland, California from October through January, 1968. The project involves leading ten seminars as well as developing experiments in teaching through individual consultations with the participants.

Parnassus Institute has consulted with:

1) the New Learning Environment Group (NEWLEG) of Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio.

2) Portola Institute of Menlo Park, California on the development of an educational fair.

3) the Augmented Human Intellect Project at the Stanford Research Institute, Menlo Park, California.

4) Esalen Institute of San Francisco and Big Sur, California.

5) Terrytown House, an estate for executive seminars in Terrytown, New York.

Parnassus Institute staff:

Jim Nixon. First coordinator of the Experimental College at San Francisco State College and President of the Associated Students 1966-67.

Ken Margolis. Associate Director at the San Francisco Actors' Workshop and has served as Advisor to the San Quentin Prison Drama Workshop. He is an Instructor of Drama at the University of California.

Cynthia Nixon. Second coordinator of the Experimental College at San Francisco State College and co-creator of the New General Studies Program for S. F. S. C.

Staff of Parnassus Institute have participated in:

1) Project Change-Over, organized by the Union for Research and Experimentation in Higher Education, as a major speaker.

2) the Montana Picnic and Seminar in Higher Education organized by the Carnegie Foundation.

3) the National Student Association National Student Congress to organize a Guerrila Theater group.

4) a Conference on Affective Learning sponsored by Esalen Institute and the McGraw Hill Book Company.

5) the American Association for Humanistic Psychology Annual Conference, leading two workshops.

6) a Conference on Student Suicide Prevention co-sponsored by the National Institute of Mental Health and the National Student Association.